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EUROMED JUSTICE III PROJECT PROJET EUROMED JUSTICE III

OPENING CONFERENCE
Brussels, 29 February 2012
CONFÉRENCE D'OUVERTURE
Bruxelles, le 29 février 2012



COMPONENT I ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND LEGAL AID

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Objectives

- **To support the development of the ENPI South partners' institutional and administrative capacity and good governance in the field of justice.**
- **The overall modernisation of justice systems, with special regard to simplification/acceleration of judicial proceedings and use of new technologies.**
- **To improve access to justice and legal aid and the quality of justice.**

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Activities and outputs

2. Working Groups

2 Handbooks

1 Research Report

3 Training Sessions

1 Study Visit

Train-the-Trainers Module

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RESEARCH REPORT

- It shall provide a comparative review of national experiences of procedural simplification and compare these with approaches adopted in the EU
- A data collection process which should lead to a real, updated and global overview of the situation in the field.
- Based on reform trends/experiences already ongoing in the EU and ENPI south partner countries, the Report could be helpful to guide possible reforms in the field covered and speed up progress on procedural simplification in accordance with international standards in the Mediterranean region.

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**RESEARCH
REPORT**

**External
expertise**

**Questionnaire:
agreement on the
scope and content**

**Technical
visits**

**Discussion
and validation
of the results

Publication**

**To be
presented
during the
2nd Regional
Conference**

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WORKING GROUPS

The work of the WGs will be of paramount importance to obtain a real knowledge of the different experiences and best practices in the field addressed that could be used in order to support progress of access to justice in the region and to step up cooperation in the field of justice between the EU and the ENPI South partner countries and among the ENPI South partners themselves.

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WORKING GROUPS

WG 1.1 on “Access to Justice and Legal Aid”

WG 1.2 on “Justice and the New Technologies”

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WORKING GROUP 1.1

- **Its aim will be to prepare a “Handbook” describing approaches and best practices in the field of access to justice and legal aid, with special regard to the needs of underprivileged social groups.**
 - Think-tank for discussion and debate
 - Multilateral approach
 - The WGs will work in English, French and Arabic with simultaneous translation
 - 3 Participants per country
 - 5 Sessions / 3 days each

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1st meeting Working Group 1.1

- **Presentation of the specific output: the “Handbook”.**
- **An overview of the current situation from an international perspective, with special attention to the work developed in this field by the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ).**
- **Special reference to the Compendium of “best practices” on management of judicial proceedings.**
- **Main topics to be discussed**
- **Discussion on the proposed methodology.**

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2nd meeting

WORKING GROUP 1.1

- **Summary of the work developed by each delegation since the previous meeting**
 - **Working on the handbook: delays and timeframe for judicial proceedings with special reference to:**
 - **Best practices on time management of judicial proceedings**
 - **Quality management in courts**
 - **Reduction of workload**
 - **The importance of speedy judicial proceedings in order to improve confidence in justice**
- **First approach to the publication**

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3rd meeting WORKING GROUP 1.1

- **Summary of the work developed by each delegation**
- **Practical approach from the different delegations related to the simplification of the procedures, oral proceedings, alternative dispute resolution**
- **Debate on systems and experiences from an international perspective**
- **Work on the draft of the handbook**

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4th meeting WORKING GROUP 1.1

- **Work developed during intermediate period**
- **Working on the handbook: initial results**
- **Work developed by each delegation (2 or 3 delegations per day, including discussion and clarifications)**
- **Difficulties encountered and solving them (discussion)**
- **An external point of view**
- **Towards the final format, Review of draft table of contents**

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5th meeting

WORKING GROUP 1.1

- **Summary of the work developed by each delegation since last meeting (1 day)**
- **Final results: analysis**
- **Finalisation of handbook: final format**
- **Exploitation of the results**

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WORKING GROUP 1.2

JUSTICE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- Its aim will be to prepare a “Handbook describing approaches and best practices with regards to the use of technologies for the management of cases, circulation of materials, data collection in the legal field and communication of case law to the public.

- 3 Sessions / 3 days each

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1st meeting WORKING GROUP 1.2

- **Presentation of the specific output: the “Handbook”**
- **Overview of the current situation from an international perspective: special attention to the CEPEJ experience.**
- **Main topics to be discussed.**
- **Discussion on the proposed methodology.**

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2nd meeting WORKING GROUP 1.2

The handbook: Justice and new technologies. Special reference to:

- **Techniques for the improvement of the circulation of legal materials**
- **Techniques for the measurement of the performance of justice administration and the collection of data in the field of justice**
- **Evaluation of the courts' performance through self-assessment: Different systems and experiences.**

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3rd meeting WORKING GROUP 1.2

- **Summary of the work developed by each delegation since last meeting (1 day)**
- **Final results: analysis**
- **Finalisation of handbook: final format**
- **Exploitation of the results**

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TRAINING ACTIVITIES

The importance of training

- **The main objectives of this activity are:**
 - **to develop awareness of new approaches and technologies which can help measure and improve the efficiency of the courts and reduce workloads and the length of procedures;**
 - **to transfer practical knowledge and know-how in order to apply the said technologies.**

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The importance of training

3 training
activities

4 participants
per country

The training
sessions will
work in English,
French and
Arabic,

With
simultaneous
translation

2nd phase of the
project

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TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Provisional proposed themes on this
component

Introduction of technologies and statistics in the
Judiciary

Methodologies for (electronic) case
management

Introduction of Quality Management in the
Judiciary: Self-Assessment Instruments

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TRAINING ACTIVITIES (1st session)

Introduction of Technologies and Statistics in the Judiciary

- Influence of technologies and statistics for courts and prosecutors' offices in the ENPI South partner countries;
- Internal and external communication required for the justice functioning;
- E-Justice: present and future;
- Main problems to be solved: workload and delays at court;
- Techniques for the measurement of the performance of justice administration, etc.

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TRAINING ACTIVITIES (2nd session)

Methodologies for (electronic) case management

- Collection and management of judicial dossiers.
- Definition and discussion of what technologies/methodologies we are talking about. Advantages and disadvantages.
- The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) approach.
- Training and new technologies.
- The European Union Member States' experience.

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TRAINING ACTIVITIES (3rd session)

Introduction of Quality Management in the Judiciary: Self-Assessment Instruments

- What is Total Quality Management (TQM) and how to take advantage of it in the Judiciary?
- Assessment approaches and methodologies: CEPEJ instruments, CAF, EFQM, ENCJ, etc
- Quality of judicial decisions
- The ENPI South partner countries' experience
- How to use the results of (self-) assessments to improve quality and efficiency

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STUDY VISIT

- Under this component one study visit will take place involving 1 representative of each ENPI South partner country and lasting indicatively 3 days.
- As provisional topics to be addressed during the study visit we could suggest : Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) or the study visit could perhaps be organised as follow-up to the topics discussed during the training sessions.
- In any case a final decision will be taken during the WG meetings based on the needs identified there.

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TRAINING MODULE

One training module will be developed in the framework of this component.

The training material produced during the implementation phase, and more specifically during the training sessions, will constitute the training module.

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**Thank you for
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